



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Worker Education and Training Program

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/home.htm>

NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program

Program Mandates:

Congress authorized the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) with the passage of Section 126 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. SARA established an assistance program for training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment and emergency response. Grant recipients are non-profit organizations with demonstrated access to appropriate worker populations and experience in implementing and operating worker health and safety education training programs.



The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal years 1992 and 1993 (42 USC 7274(d)) authorized the Secretary of Energy in section 3131(a)(1)(A)-(B) to make awards: "to provide training and education to persons who are or may be engaged in hazardous substance response or emergency at Department of Energy nuclear weapons facilities; and to develop response curricula for such training and education."

Program Description:

- NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program -- focuses on training workers engaged in environmental restoration, waste treatment and emergency response activities at sites in the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons complex.
- The goal of the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program has been to provide site-specific, quality training to workers in a timely and cost-effective manner, through a partnership involving government, contractors, and labor organizations. A cornerstone of the program is the use of "worker-trainers," employees well-versed in performing a given task in a hazardous environment who are trained to instruct other workers. Benefits of the partnership include fostering cooperation between management and workers, improving efficiency and quality of training, improving the ability to address worker concerns, and empowering all stakeholders to address site-specific safety and health needs.

Program Accomplishments:

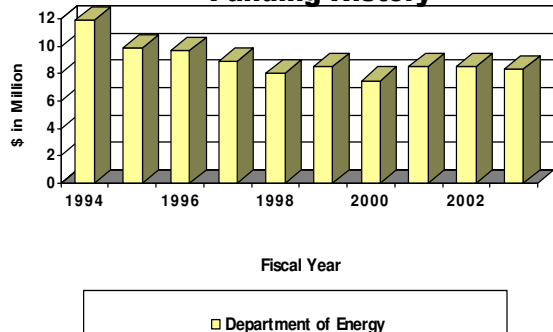
•In completing the tenth year of the NIEHS/DOE Worker Education and Training Program ending August 31, 2003, the NIEHS successfully supported eight primary awardees. Across the DOE complex, the NIEHS awardees trained more than 170,000 workers and presented over 10,000 classroom and hands-on training courses, accounting for 2.5 million contact hours of actual training.

•As of August 31, 2003, the eight primary worker training awardees and more than thirty sub-awardees delivered 1,959 courses, reaching 23,187 workers, which account for 303,633 contact hours of health and safety training. This training ranged from 4-hour refresher programs to more complex train-the-trainer courses lasting up to 120 hours. Fifty-four percent of the training focused on delivering basic HAZWOPER cleanup worker training. This comprises 11,486 workers who received 80-hour training, basic 40-hour training, or 4-8 hour refresher courses. While the DOE/NIEHS awardees provided training at more than 28 DOE sites during the past year, over half of the training occurred at two of the largest DOE sites, Hanford and Oak Ridge. Between the two sites, 1,205 (62%) courses were delivered, reaching 14,748 (64%) workers, which account for 154,941 (51%) contact hours of training.

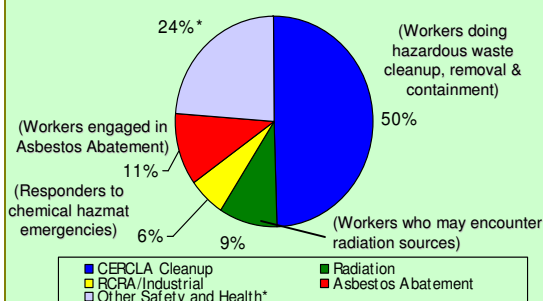
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Funding History



DOE Workers Trained by Target Populations (2002-2003)



*Includes other S&H courses, ER, Lead Abatement, HAZMAT.



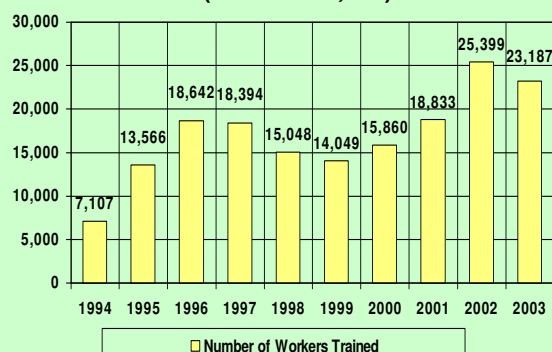
Current Primary WETP DOE Awardees:

- Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union
- Center to Protect Workers' Rights
- Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Chemical Workers Union Council
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund
- University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Communication Tools:

The NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training Newsbrief – The E-Newsbrief is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. Also featured each week are updates from government agencies that handle hazmat and worker safety issues such as DOE, EPA, and OSHA. Current and past Newsbriefs can be viewed at: <http://www.wetp.org/wetp/index.cfm>.

Number of Workers Trained (Total -- 170,085)



Maintaining the Gold Standard for Hazardous Materials Training:

The Gold Standard in training means developing and delivering training events of the highest quality possible, using the most advanced adult educational materials, exercises and techniques; items that are reviewed and evaluated by technical experts; that are kept up-to-date or "evergreen;" and that are carried out in appropriate learning environments with appropriate student/teacher ratios. NIEHS and its awardees are committed to maintaining this high standard because it saves lives and prevents injuries.